

B-1412

Redemptorist Row
219-237 Park Avenue
Private

ca. 1875-80

The Redemptorist Row is a well-preserved commercial group of the 1870's featuring the varied brickwork and picturesque roofline typical of the Victorian eclectic styles. Although altered, the storefronts and much of the original leaded glass transoms remain intact. The name Redemptorist is one chosen as a reference to the Redemptorist Order, which had charge of St. Alphonsus Roman Catholic Church just north of the Row on Saratoga Street and the St. Alphonsus Halle and School, just east of the Row. The Redemptorists owned the Row as an investment from 1885 to 1946.

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Redemptorist Row

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 219-237 Park Avenue ☐ not for publication

city, town Baltimore ☐ vicinity of congressional district 3rd

state Maryland county

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Maryland Distillers Products Co.

street & number 7918 Ivy Lane telephone no.:

city, town Baltimore state and zip code Maryland 21208

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Courthouse liber MLP 9382

street & number Fayette and Calvert Streets folio 251

city, town Baltimore state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

in Baltimore Retail District Survey

date 1980 ☒ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☒ local

depository for survey records Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation

city, town Baltimore state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No. B-1412

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Summary:

The Redemptorist Row is a group of ten adjoining brick commercial buildings dating from about 1875-80 and located on the east side of Park Avenue between Clay and Saratoga Streets in central Baltimore, Maryland. Each is three stories in height and consists of a storefront with a leaded glass transom and display windows and a three-bay upper facade. The brick upper facades are ornamented with panels of molded brick featuring garlands, swags, lion heads, and masks. Each facade has a corbelled brick parapet terminated by finials. The end buildings in the row have had the most alteration, primarily in the storefronts, and only one building in the row has significant changes to the upper facade.

General Description:

The row is situated on a gentle slope from north to south, resulting in a stepped streetscape on the Park Avenue elevations. The upper stories of the row have three bays with tall, narrow 1/1 windows. The stone sills of each story are connected by a belt course of molded brick in various patterns across the entire row. These patterns include key molding, interlaced circles, leaves, and star medallions. Each facade is terminated at the sides by projecting brick piers with inset panels of medallions and masks. The piers end in finials topped by stylized anthemia. Other inset panels of garlands and swags are located under the windows of each story. The windows have gauged flat arches. The cornices are corbelled brick on a thin parapet wall rising above the sloping roofs.

The upper facade of No. 225 Park Avenue is the most altered in the row. It has three-part plate glass windows on each floor and a painted spandrel between the second and third stories. No. 219 at the southern end of the row has an undercut street level with a supporting pier and a diagonal entrance across the corner. A sloping shingled overhang covers the transom level of No. 219 and the entire facade is painted white. The remainder of the row is painted brick red with buff trim.

The storefronts of the row were originally identical, with recessed center entrances between show windows under leaded glass transoms. These have been altered, primarily by the covering of the transoms with sign panels. Only Nos. 221, 229, and 235 still have exposed transoms. Each has a different leading pattern, with interlacing circles at 221, a central stained glass medallion with the address number at 229, and a diamond pattern with double address medallions at 235. The transom frames have scroll consoles at the sides. Although the remaining storefront transoms are covered, it is probable that they remain mostly intact.

The northernmost building in the row has the same upper facade on Park Avenue as the rest of the row, but the storefront cornice and plate glass windows continue around the corner on the Saratoga Street elevation. The rounded corner of the
(continue, please)

8. Significance

Survey No. B-1412

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates ca. 1875–80

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Summary:

The Redemptorist Row is a well-preserved commercial group of the 1870's featuring the varied brickwork and picturesque roofline typical of the Victorian eclectic styles. Although altered, the storefronts and much of the original leaded glass transoms remain intact. The name Redemptorist is one chosen as a reference to the Redemptorist Order, which had charge of St. Alphonsus Roman Catholic Church just north of the Row on Saratoga Street and the St. Alphonsus Halle and School, just east of the Row. The Redemptorists owned the Row as an investment from 1885 to 1946.

History and Support:

Very little is known about the design and construction of the Redemptorist Row. City maps from the early 19th century show the east side of Park Avenue (then called North Street) fully developed. These were probably two or three story brick rowhouses with stores and offices on the lower floors, as was typical in the rest of the city. In 1873, a devastating fire destroyed most of the area between Liberty and Howard and Lexington and Saratoga Streets, including the 200 block of Park Avenue. The present Row was built after the fire, but land records are unclear as to the date, the owner or the builder. The Redemptorists rebuilt the St. Alphonsus School on the same location just east of the Row and they may have acquired the lots facing Park Avenue to use for future expansion of the school. The records show the Redemptorists purchased the row in 1885, but the buildings may have been in existence for at least ten years prior to that date. In any case, the proximity to St. Alphonsus Church resulted in the long tenancy of stores in the Row selling church-related items and religious books. One stationery shop, John H. Saumenig, moved to 229 Park Avenue following the Fire of 1904 and remained at the same address until the mid-1950's. O'Donovan's church goods store was at 221 Park Avenue from 1914 until the early 1960's.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. B-1412

Baltimore City directories
Baltimore City Land Records

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Baltimore EastQuadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

co-terminous with nine adjoining lots, measuring 183 ft. by 70 ft. 6 inches
in total

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

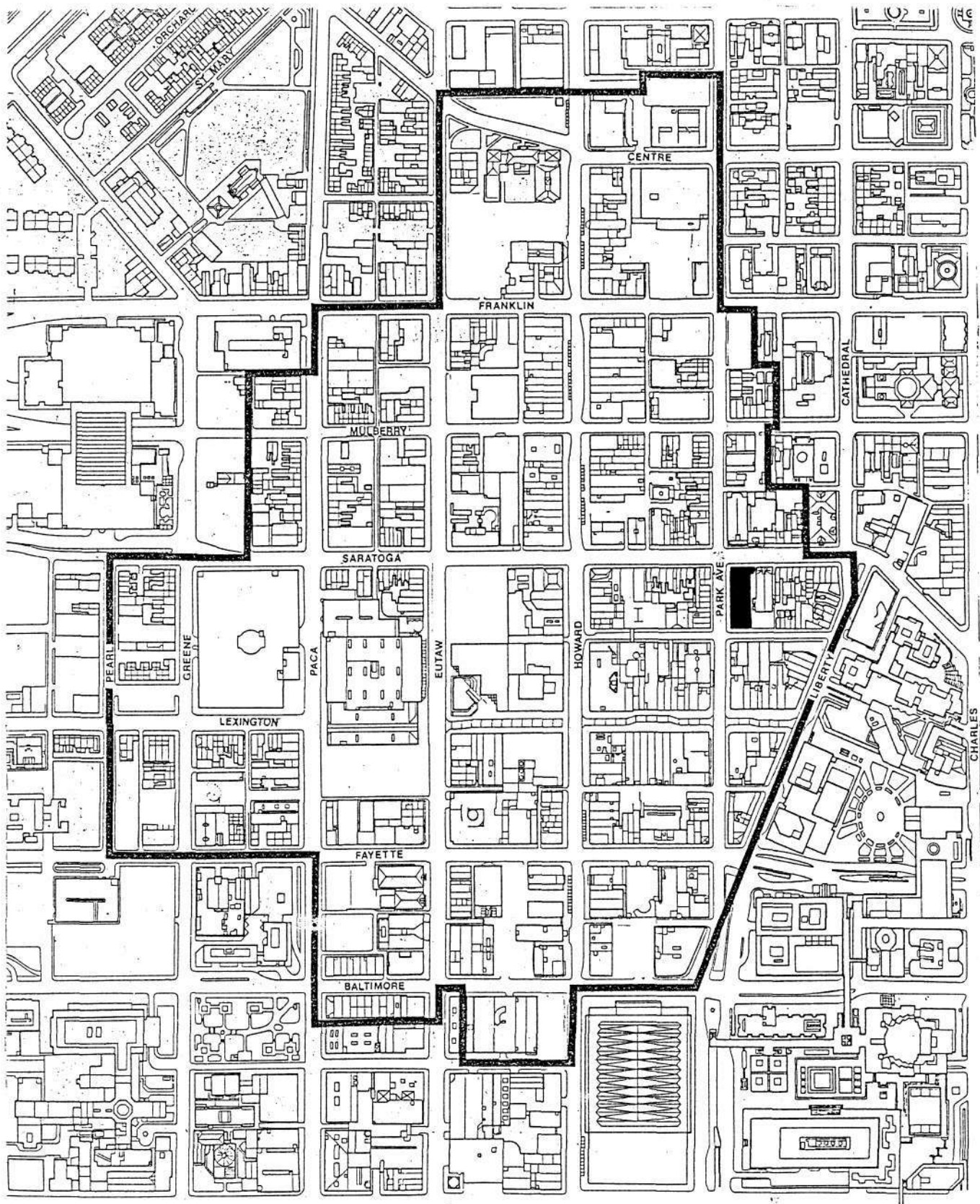
name/title Ms. Janet L. Davis, Historical Preservation Analystorganization Comm. for Hist. and Arch. Pres. (CHAP) date February 1986street & number 606 Tower Suites, 118 N. Howard St. telephone (301) 396-4866city or town Baltimore state Maryland 21201

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by
an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated
Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and
record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of
individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

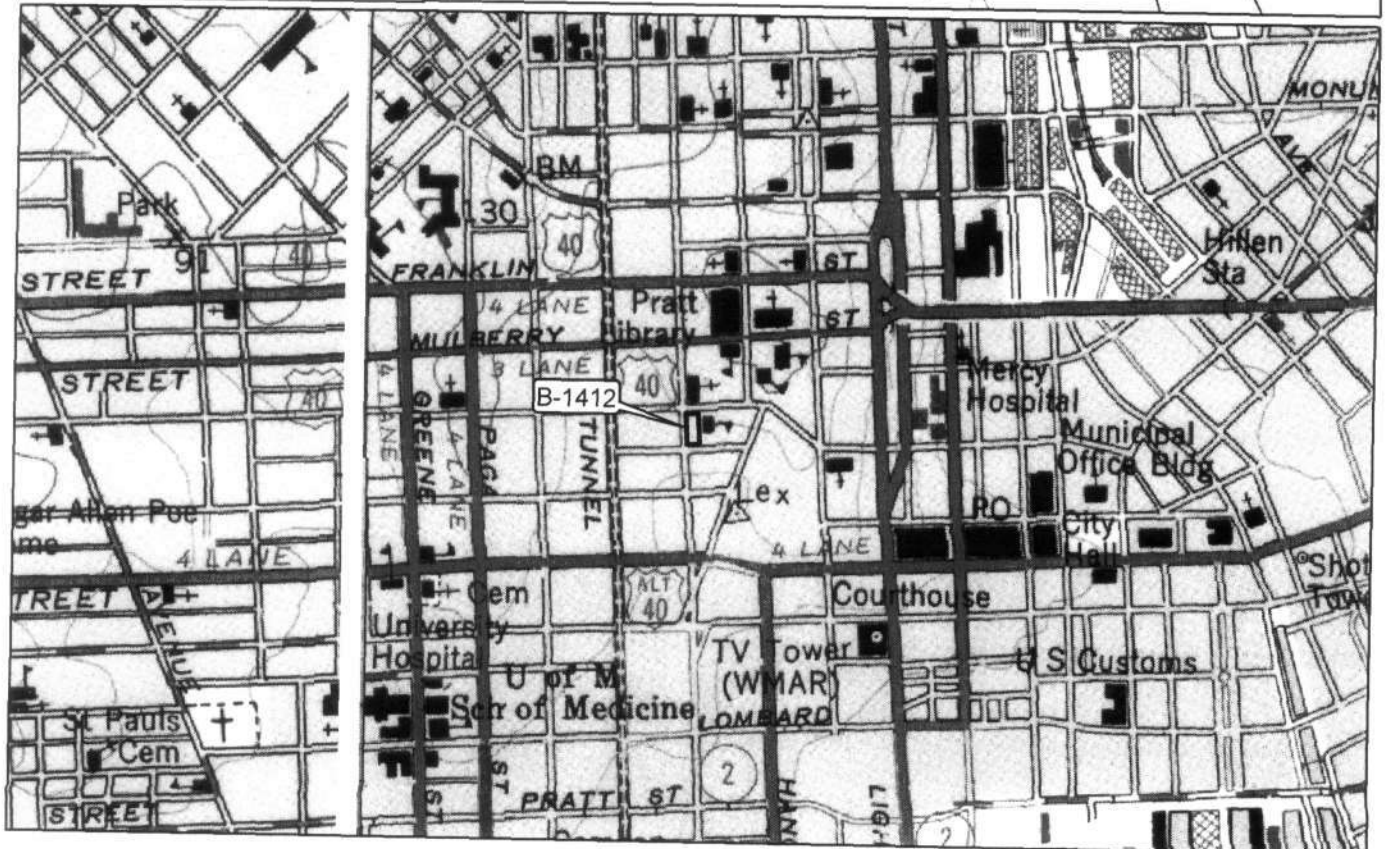
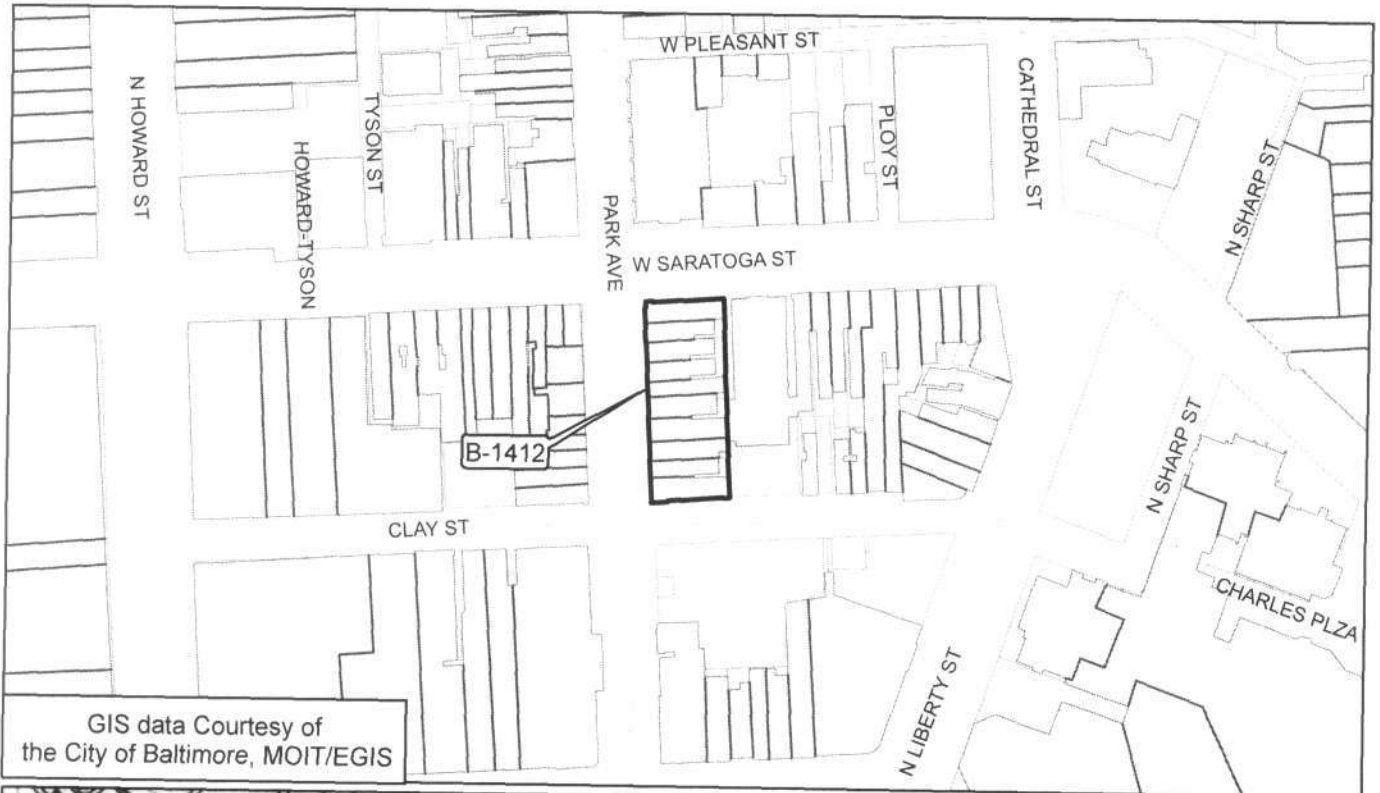
cornice indicates the original entrance may have been directly at the corner. It has been altered and the door is now on the Park Avenue side and the plate glass windows extend across about one quarter of the Saratoga Street elevation. The rest of the elevation has an asymmetrical window arrangement. Two first floor window openings have been bricked in, leaving two window and two door openings near the northeast corner of the row. One of the door openings is original, with a bracketed hood. The other door is a modern steel security door.



Baltimore Metrocenter Survey
 Market Center
 Redemptorist Row
 219-237 Park Avenue
 B-1412



B-1412
Redemptorist Row
219-237 Park Avenue
Block 0599, Lots 001-009
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





Redemptorist Row B- 1412
219-237 Park Avenue
Market Center - Metrocenter Survey
Baltimore (City), Maryland
Photo: Janet Davis
November 1985
Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
Northwest corner view
1/3



Redemptorist Row
219-237 Park Avenue
Market Center - Metrocenter Survey
Baltimore (City), Maryland
Photo: Janet Davis
November 1985
Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
Northwest corner view with Saratoga
St. elevation
2/3

B-1412



Redemptorist Row B-1412
219-237 Park Avenue
Market Center - Metrocenter Survey
Baltimore (City), Maryland
Photo: Janet Davis
November 1985
Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
Southwest corner view
3/3